

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 01852 191816Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
SAJ-01 CU-02 DHA-02 BIB-01 /077 W
-----200433Z 100149 /71

R 191810Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8915
INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 01852

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLAB, FR, CZ
SUBJECT: FRENCH INTELLECTUALS PROTEST ARREST OF
J. GROHMAN

1. JOSEPH GROHMAN WHO AS REPORTED BY EMBASSY
PRAGUE WAS RECENTLY ARRESTED UPON HIS RETURN TO
PRAGUE ON A VISIT FROM HIS POST IN PARIS AS CZECH
REPRESENTATIVE TO UNESCO AND WAS ACCUSED OF TREASON
IS LIKELY TO BECOME ONE MORE SUBJECT OF WESTERN LETTER-
WRITING TO EA GOVERNMENTS. THE INITIATIVE HAS BEEN
TAKEN BY PEOPLE WHO HAD KNOWN GROHMAN FROM THE EARLY
DAYS OF THE CREATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF
STUDENTS (IUS) IN 1946 OF WHICH GROHMAN WAS THE FIRST
PRESIDENT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 01852 191816Z

2. THEIR FIRST MOVE WAS TO SEND A LETTER TO THE
CZECH AMBASSADOR IN PARIS ON 11 JANUARY. THE LETTER,
COUCHED IN COURTEOUS LANGUAGE, EXPRESSES SURPRISE FOR
GROHMAN'S ARREST AND ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HIM AND
HOPES THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL PROTECT ITS REPUTATION
BY ASSURING THAT GROHMAN RECEIVES FAIR AND JUST TREAT-

MENT. LETTER WAS SIGNED BY GUY PENNE, A MILITANT SOCIALIST, DEAN OF THE DENTAL SCHOOL IN PARIS UNIVERSITY VII, OF WHICH HE IS ALSO VICE PRESIDENT (PAST IUS PRESIDENT), PIERRE TROUVAT, WELL-KNOWN ATTORNEY IN PARIS AND FORMER IUS VICE PRESIDENT, PAUL BOUCHET, SUCCESSFUL ATTORNEY IN LYON, AND PIERRE ROSTINI, EDITOR OF THE WEEKLY LETTER ESOPE WHICH SPECIALIZES IN STUDIES OF COMMUNIST STRATEGY AND TACTICS. ROSTINI IS FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WHICH LED TO IUS.

3. THERE WAS AN INTERESTING REACTION FROM THE CZECH EMBASSY WHEN IT RECEIVED THE LETTER OF 11 JANUARY. EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING A CZECH DIPLOMAT CALLED PENNE'S OFFICE TO STATE THAT HIS SIGNATURE ON THE LETTER IS LIKELY TO CREATE PROBLEMS WITH REGARD TO THE UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE PROGRAM WHICH IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING NEGOTIATED WITH PARIS UNIVERSITY VII AND THEREFORE MR. PENNE "HAD 24 HOURS" IN WHICH TO WITHDRAW HIS SIGNATURE FROM THE LETTER. PENNE'S OFFICE REPLIED IMMEDIATELY THAT THIS WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

4. SIGNATORIES ARE PLANNING TO RELEASE THE LETTER TO THE FRENCH PAPERS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND TO CIRCULATE IT TO OTHER FRENCH INTELLECTUALS FOR ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES. POTENTIAL SIGNATORIES THEY INTEND TO SOLICIT INCLUDE PROFESSOR BERLINGUER IN ITALY, BROTHER OF PCI SECRETARY GENERAL, FORMER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 01852 191816Z

PRIME MINISTER OF SWEDEN O. PALME, BOTH OF WHOM WERE ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH IUS AND MUST HAVE KNOWN GROHMAN.

5. ACCORDING TO ROSTINI THE FOUR SIGNATORIES OF THE FOREGOING LETTER ARE SPECULATING AROUND TWO EXPLANATIONS FOR GROHMAN'S ARREST. ONE HAS TO DO WITH HIS FORMER WIFE, WHO WAS DESCRIBED AS "A PEST", WHO IS NOW MARRIED TO A SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SECURITY AFFAIRS. THEY CONSIDER POSSIBLE THAT SHE STILL CARRIES A GRUDGE AGAINST GROHMAN AND IS USING THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR REVENGE. THE OTHER EXPLANATION WHICH IS MORE POLITICAL IS BASED ON THE THEORY THAT THE CZECH GOVERNMENT WAS LOOKING FOR A SCAPEGOAT TO UNLEASH A NEW WAVE OF TRIALS AND REPRESSION, AND GROHMAN FITTED THE BILL BECAUSE OF HIS FREQUENT ABSENCE AWAY FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND CONTACTS WITH THE WESTERN WORLD.
RUSH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC ATTITUDES, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS01852
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770020-1147
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770137/aaaabgbx.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f8e3a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3558545
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH INTELLECTUALS PROTEST ARREST OF J. GROHMAN
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, FR, CZ, (GROHMAN, JOSEPH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f8e3a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009